



## Undershaw

### Hindhead

The construction of a new school for 'Stepping Stones', an education centre for children with special needs. The project comprised the refurbishment of an existing Grade II listed house & coach house, as well as a significant new extension and associated external works. We were appointed by the DFN Charitable foundation, whom funded the new school.



The existing building was originally built and lived in by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his wife. It was the place where he wrote some of his most notable novels, including 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'. When we arrived on site the building had been empty for approximately 10 years and was in a bad state of disrepair.

The project entailed the demolition of a 1930's extension, complete strip out and structural alterations to the existing building, whilst preserving and restoring many of the historical features. It was then completely refurbished and brought back to life. Original stain glass windows were restored along with fire places, staircases and wooden floors.



The new extension is a contemporary design adopting many modern building techniques, formed by a steel frame structure and clad with brickwork and zinc. The roof incorporates zinc clad fins, which house photovoltaic panels for renewable energy on one side and high level windows on the other. The extension has been fused to the existing building by a glass link, which helps promote clarity between old and new.

Externally, we were tasked with creating new access roads and a car parking area, which is supported by a criblock retaining wall. In addition, a multi-use games area was constructed at the bottom of the site, with access paths designed to accommodate the students.



A challenging project, O&D no doubt inspired by Sherlock Holmes problem solving abilities, were able to seamlessly navigate any difficulties they encountered and help create this world class school.

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